to be pursued in the future with regard to the forest administration is now under the consideration of Government. If there is any time, any occasion on which he can appoint a committee, this is the time, the best time and the most opportune moment for him to appoint a committee, so that it may investigate into the matter thoroughly and see not four grievances but four hundred grievances that they may collect, because the ryot who is actually suffering, groaning under the yoke of the Forest Department and the man who actually knows where the shoe pinches would be able to state in the best way the manifold grievances that he is labouring under. Under the circumstances, it is but right that he should at once accede to the proposal of appointing a committee, so that he may thoroughly see all the grievances that the poor ryots suffer under. One instance I may at once give my hon. Friend. It is this: that in a case in which three annas worth of leaves were been cut in the forest—I know that the leaves were been sold for that sum immediately after they were seized by the Forest Department—Rs 130 was levied as a compounding fee, and the delinquents refused to pay this, stood a prosecution, and the result is, as you all know, they were all discharged by the magistrate. That is how it is. It is of course a rare thing. But, unfortunately, the officer who was inquiring into the matter was thoroughly honest and fair and would not in any way sell his conscience for anything, and would not care either for the circulars of the District Magistrate or for the threats of his superiors. I think he must have been in the bad books of the Government. Well, I do not care how it is. He has been thoroughly honest and dealt even-handed justice. This case I urge for the consideration of this House. Whatever it may be, this one fact is very clear that the District Magistrates and other superior magistrates have a complete hold upon the subordinate magistrates so far as the trial of forest offences are concerned and my hon. Friend, the Law Member, I hope, will give his best thought to this.

"Then one, other thing which I would mention for his consideration is that in a forest case the general impression is that if a forest guard gives evidence it is everything, it can never be refuted, it is gospel, it must be acted upon and the magistrate is bound to accept it, and if he does not, he does so at his own peril, at the peril of his office. That is the impression created in the minds of the people. In those circumstances, I appeal to the hon. the Law Member through you, Sir, to see that if an innocent person happens to be prosecuted for a forest offence he is able to get justice."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Does the hon. Member wish to continue his speech further?"

Mr. A. PARASURAMA RAO :—"Yes, Sir."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"He will have a chance of continuing his speech to-morrow."

XVII

PROGRAMME OF COUNCIL SITTINGS IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER.

5 p.m * The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I am now in a position to give some information to the House as to the programme of sittings of the Council during this month and the next. After the transaction of non-official business to-morrow, the Council will adjourn to 11 a.m. on Saturday, the 8th instant, as Friday the 7th instant is a holiday. It is anticipated that there

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will be reasonable work especially legislative work of both the Government and non-official members for a meeting of the council in October and it is therefore desirable to finish as many items of official work lying over from the list of business of the fourth instant as possible during this very month. Saturday will therefore be devoted to the official business left over from the agenda of the 4th. At the conclusion of the sitting on Saturday, the House will adjourn to Monday the 8th October. It is too soon to say whether there will be a meeting in November or not, as that will depend on the work which is likely to come up for a meeting in that month.

"This House will now adjourn and re-assemble at 11 a.m. to-morrow."

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS